



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life and inspiring pride in our community.

Dave Wood, Mayor

www.mishawaka.in.gov

December 2016

A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood



We in Mishawaka government are always striving to provide "world-class service" to our residents. While we are fairly adept at providing some services efficiently such as snow removal (yes-we are already planning for winter), there are some critical services that we can't efficiently provide ourselves. In those cases, we contract out to a service provider who is better equipped to perform the service. One such example is our solid waste and recycling collection. Our Board of Public Works and Safety typically bids out the service to ensure that we get the lowest price for the best services possible. But there are instances when we look to extend an existing contract when we think that it is in the best interests of our citizens. The Board was recently able to

negotiate a contract extension with Republic Services of Indiana and the Mishawaka Common Council unanimously approved the extension. Several factors went into that decision to extend rather than bid including the risk of a substantial rate hike, the steep learning curve for a new trash company to learn the routes and get up to speed and the added value of new services that was included in the extension.

The new contract will take effect January 1, 2017 and will extend through December 31, 2020 with minimal increased costs for trash and recycling services but with some important new benefits.

The new monthly rates for the duration of this contract beginning January 1, 2017 are:

- Senior Rate (65 Years and older): \$12.09 monthly per Dwelling Unit
- Basic Rate: \$14.86 monthly per Dwelling Unit

Trash Carts: As part of the agreement, Republic will provide rolling trash carts (roughly a \$100.00 value), similar to the current recycling carts, at no charge to the City or its residents. The new carts and associated mechanized pick-up will improve collection efficiency thereby saving on costs and keeping your fees lower. It also makes it easier for Republic to attract and retain workers knowing they don't have to wrestle big, smelly, greasy garbage cans on hot summer days. The new roll off carts will also provide a uniform look along City streets. They come with an attached lid that will help reduce loose trash blowing down city streets and prevent animals from getting into and scattering trash which should mean cleaner neighborhoods and less work for Code Enforcement

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

Dec 9	Family Movies at Battell Center "It's a Wonderful Life" - 1pm "A Christmas Story" - 7pm
Dec 13	Breakfast with Santa (Battell Center 9am)
Dec 16	WinterFest (Merrifield Complex 5-8pm)
Dec 23	City Offices Closed
Dec 26	City Offices Closed
Jan 2	City Offices Closed

Year-End Holiday Schedule

The City will recognize the 2016 Christmas holidays on Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th, and the New Year's Day holiday on Monday, January 2nd.

All City offices will be closed and reopen on the Tuesday following the holiday.

Biometric Palm-Vein Scanning

Health Information from Saint Joseph Health System

Checking in to hospitals is becoming more accurate, secure and safe. That's because many hospitals, including Saint Joseph Health System, have begun using new biometric palm-vein scanning technology to help capture a patient's personal information.

"In addition to streamlining registration at check-in, this new technology helps ensure patients are identified accurately," said Chad W. Towner, CEO of Saint Joseph Health System. "When it comes to medical information such as allergies and medication lists, precisely identifying each individual is vital for our medical staff, especially in emergency situations."

The pattern of each individual's veins develops before a person is born, and remains unique for life. Even identical twins have completely different vein patterns. The palm-vein scanning is also beneficial to those with common or complex last names when verifying a patient's record.

Palm scans take mere seconds to capture, and are stored through the use of binary codes, leaving scans untraceable. Patients simply place their hand on a palm-sized scanner while a low-level infrared light, similar to a TV remote, scans the vein map of your hand. Scans are good for life with the exception of children. Children over the age of 5 are eligible for the biometric vein scanning, but require annual scanning to accommodate natural growth of the palm.

The scanning technology is currently being used at the Mishawaka and Plymouth Medical Centers.

ONLINE ACCESS



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A Letter from Mayor Dave Wood *(continued)*

officers. In most cases, if your recycling is currently picked up at the street (as opposed to an alley), your trash will now be picked up at the street, as well, once the new carts are delivered.

Republic Services will provide each residence with one 95-gallon trash cart. Customers may opt for a smaller, 65-gallon trash cart by returning the postcard included in an earlier letter. The 95-gallon cart is about 2 inches taller, 2 inches wider, and 5 inches deeper while the 65-gallon cart has the same dimensions as the current recycle cart. If your preference is the larger 95-gallon cart, you do not need to do anything and one will be delivered beginning in early December. If you receive a large cart and had requested a smaller cart, please contact the Central Services Department at (574) 258-1660 to provide your address. Additional carts will be available for rent from Republic by calling 800- 888-5783.

Senior Rates: The contract continues to include a senior discount for customers that have reached the age of 65 years or older; whom are eligible for a twenty percent (20%) discount on their monthly Solid Waste Services bill. To receive the discount, customer is required to provide a birth certificate or driver's license at the Mishawaka Utilities Office for verification of age when applying for the senior rate; discount will be applied to the next monthly billing cycle. This discount is available only to the utility customer of record, and applies only to the primary property where the senior is personally living. Accounts must be paid current in order to qualify for the senior rate.

Collection: Trash and recycling collection schedules will remain unchanged. Collection will continue once a week, Monday through Friday anytime between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Beginning January 1, 2017, the majority of both recycling and trash collections will be shifted to the street side from alleys, with carts to be placed within 5 feet of the curb on a public street. In congested areas or where recycling is currently collected in the alley as determined by Republic Services and the City, trash carts will continue to be placed at the edge of the alley for collection by Republic Services.

Trash Limits: Republic Services has requested that customers discontinue utilizing existing thirty-five (35) gallon containers and barrels and that all bagged trash be placed in the 65- or 95-gallon trash carts to enable the collection to be collected by the arm on the truck. In addition, there will be no changes to the service provided with respect to large items, additional bags and recycling.

Excluded Items: Republic Services will not be required to pick up any of the following items:

- Loose items not in cart
- Any garbage not drained free of liquid or wrapped in several thickness of paper.
- Hot ashes
- Any liquids or oils
- Tree limbs over six (6) inches in diameter or more than four (4) feet in length.
- Construction debris, concrete, asphalt shingles, building materials or earth resulting from major building construction or demolition.
- Automobile parts including but not limited to: engine blocks, transmissions, tires, axles, frames, body parts or batteries.
- Any hazardous waste or flammable/volatile liquids.
- Automobile tires.

Large Item Pickup: Each dwelling unit will continue to be allowed two (2) large items per week to be picked up with their trash at no additional charge. This includes but is not limited to: chests, furniture and appliances. Any items containing Freon such as refrigerators, air conditioning units, dehumidifiers or freezers must have the Freon removed and a certified sticker placed on the item before contractor will pick item up. Carpet and padding must be cut in four (4) foot lengths rolled less than twelve (12) inches in diameter and secured with tape or heavy string.

Fall Leaf Pickup and Christmas Tree Collection Programs will continue to be provided by the City.

We are aware that changes of this magnitude in a critical service can bring about questions and even anxiety. We never enter into such decisions lightly. It is our belief that these changes will provide more efficient service, a seamless transition, cleaner neighborhoods and most importantly, the best value for our citizens. As always, if you have any questions please call us.

Mayor Dave Wood



Winter Skills Clinics

Mishawaka Parks will be offering various clinics along with a Youth Soccer League.

Contact the Parks Department at (574) 258-1664 for more information.

Merrifield Ice Rink

(574) 258-1665

Open Skate Hours

Tue	4pm - 8pm
Thu	10am - 2pm
Fri	3pm - 8pm
Sat/Sun	12pm - 4pm 4:30pm - 9pm

*Weather Permitting
Please Call Ahead*

George Wilson Hill

(574) 258-1707

Tubing Hours

Daily 10am - Dusk

*Weather Permitting
Please Call Ahead*